GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4298
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2015
FEMALE LABOUR FORCE
Gopalakrishnan Shri R.

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether India`s female labour force par- ticipation remains low in comparison to other developing countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Gover- nment for equal participation of women to explore their potential in labour sector as well as at board level in industries/ companies?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)

(a) & (b): Reliable estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through labour force surveys on employment and unemployment conducted by National Sample Survey Office, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Imple- mentation. According to the NSS surveys of 2004-05 and 2011-12, the labour force parti- cipation rates are as follows:

Year	2004-05	2011-12
Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) (%)	43.0	39.5
Women Labour Force Partici- pation Rate (WLFPR) (%)	29.4	22.5

The increasing participation of the popu- lation in education and increase income of workers over the years (termed 'education effect' and 'income effect') have led to declining women labour force participation rate over time.

(c): Government has taken various steps to improve status of women workers which inc- lude earmarking of funds under various Central schemes for skill development, asking States to facilitate easy regis- tration of workers involved in constru- ction work and also spend higher propor- tion of building and other construction worker welfare cess on skill development of registered workers and their families. With a view to providing social security to unorganised workers, the Government has enacted the "Unorganized Workers' Social Security Act, 2008" and has substantially increased ambit of Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) to cover larger cross section of workers and their families.

Equal Remuneration Act, 1973 provides for payment of equal remuneration to men and women workers for the same work or work of similar nature without any discrimination. The Act is effectively enforced by the Central and State Government by conducting regular inspections to detect the violation of provisions of the Act by establishments. The office of Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) in the Central Sphere and State Govt. in State Sphere are the appropriate authorities to conduct inspection to ensure implementation of the provisions of the Act. Officers of the appropriate Government notified as Inspectors make inspections and prosecute those found violating provision of the Act. The act extends to whole of India.